

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01375 121545Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5082

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR/EI

SUBJ: MIXED REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST WAR

1. FROM NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS, WE HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT MUCH OF IRISH PUBLIC IS ROOTING FOR ARABS IN CURRENT CONFLICT. REASONS ARE PUZZLING. IRELAND HAS SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL JEWISH COLONY, AND NO ARAB COLONY. DUBLIN HAS NO REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH EITHER ARABS OR ISRAELIS. STILL, MANY LOOK ON ARABS AS UNDERDOGS AND THERE MAY BE TENDENCY TO EQUATE ARAB POSITION WITH THAT OF CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WHATEVER THE REASONS, NUMBER OF IRISH CONTACTS HAVE CRITICIZED ISRAELIS WITH UNUSUAL HEAT.

2. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN MEDIA, HOWEVER. IN PRESS, NEWS COVERAGE HAS COME FROM INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, AND RADIO/TV COVERAGE DRAWS FROM CBS. EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY BALANCED. MAIN CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EUROPEAN OIL SUPPLIES AND DANGER OF US/SOVIET CONFRONTATION OVER ARMS SUPPLIES. ONLY "IRISH TIMES" EDITORIALS SHOW ANY SIGNS OF KNOWLEDGE OR STUDY. IN PAST, "IRISH TIMES" HAS OFTEN SHOWN ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS, BUT CURRENT EDITORIALS NOTE THAT "RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN, AND ARE, FUELING THE ARAB WAR EFFORT WITH MUCH MORE DETERMINATION

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THAN THE AMERICANS IN THE CASE OF ISRAEL." "IRISH PRESS," ON

OTHER HAND, CONDEMNS BOTH RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS EQUALLY.
SORENSEN

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